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Minutes of an additional Monthly Meeting of Church Aston Parish Council held on-line via Zoom 7.00 pm on Monday 18th July 2022.

Present: Councillors: S. Stacey (Chairman), P. Evans (Vice-Chairman), F. McKeown, P. Sansom, B. Knight, J. Pay, M. Bennett, and A. Stokes

In attendance: Borough Cllr Eade and Mike Atherton (Clerk)

(18/07/22)

Item 1 - Apologies: Cllr B Richards

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest: there were no declarations of interest.

PARISH PROJECTS & COMMUNITY MATTERS

Item 3 – ASB at the QEII Play Area – Proposal to Install CCTV

The Chairman (Cllr Stacey) introduced this item explaining several recent incidences of anti-social behaviour issues at the QEII Play Area and consequent meetings with residents, Paul Fenn of T&WC Neighbourhood Services, and most recently with representatives of West Mercia Police.

An ASB Order has been issued against a local youth however ASB issues persist involving other young people.

Cllr Stacey confirmed that there was general support amongst agencies and local residents for the installation of CCTV at the site.

To assist with considerations, Paul Fenn (T&WC Neighbourhood Services) had provided a quotation for provision of CCTV coverage of key parts of the play area. Costs for this service including installation and monitoring for a 24 month period are £6,500 (provided it is installed simultaneously with a similar system at Lilleshall).

Borough Cllr Eade has offered to contribute £2,000 from his Ward Member fund and T&WC have agreed to contribute £1,500; leaving a balance of £3,000 to be funded by the Parish Council.

Ongoing costs beyond the initial 24 month period are estimated at ~£500 per annum (split roughly 50% maintenance & 50% monitoring costs).

The Chairman invited in turn each Member present to express their views on the proposals. Views expressed were wide-ranging and provided a well-informed debate that took into consideration a very diverse range of views and interests, including (in no particular order):-

- Underlying causes of youth vandalism, violence and dissenting attitudes;
- Concerns that CCTV may be an over-reaction to recent issues;
- Views that CCTV 'deflects' (an issue) rather than 'detects' (the perpetrator)
- A range of interventions other than provision of CCTV;
- Policing resources / priorities and their ability to respond immediately;
- Data management / security and protection of individual rights;
- Risk of vandalism to CCTV equipment;
- Installation costs and ongoing costs / liabilities for a CCTV system;
- Value for money of the CCTV system offered by T&WC;
- Importance of resident views in determining responses;
- Significance of a 'do nothing' option;
- Importance of reassuring users of the QEII Park that it is a safe area to visit.

During discussions Borough Cllr Eade described an initial incident where a parent had been threatened with physical violence by a young person when they had tried to intervene. Parents present at this incident left the park together fearing for their personal safety.

At conclusion of the debate the Chairman thanked all Members present for a thorough and intensive discussion on this 'sensitive' proposal.

The proposal to accept the T&WC offer to install and operate a CCTV system at the QEII Park was moved by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Stokes, and carried by 8 votes in favour, no votes against and one abstention.

Resolved: that Church Aston PC support provision of a CCTV system at the QEII Park, with installation and initial management / monitoring in line with a quotation and proposals provided by T&WC.

In discussing funding Members were mindful of potential impact on the approved budget and also on other priorities and projects.

There is no provision within the currently approved budget for a CCTV scheme and therefore Members considered a number of options to secure resources needed for the scheme.

A proposal to fund the CAPC contribution of £3,000 from reserves & balances was proposed by Cllr Pay, seconded by Cllr Evans, and carried by 8 votes in favour, no votes against and one abstention.

Resolved: Church Aston PC resolved to commit £3,000 from reserves & balances to part fund installation of CCTV at the QEII Park.

Actions:

1. Clerk to inform Paul Fenn (T&WC Neighbourhood Services) of the decision taken by Members to proceed with the proposal to install CCTV at the QEII Park;
2. Clerk to invite PCSO Kristin Wills to their meeting in September 2022 to discuss future policing of the QEII Park and other policing matters in the Parish;
3. Clerk to update the approved budget and to report back to Members at their meeting in September 2022.

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

Item 4 – Personnel Committee

The Clerk updated Members on action taken to re-advertise the Clerk & RFO post via various media.

As at today's date, one completed application had been received and documents have been sent to one other prospective applicant.

The closing date for applications is 30th July 2022 with proposals to interview during early August - provided applicants and Members of the Personnel Committee are available.

Item 5 – Future Meeting Dates: The following future meeting dates were noted:

- **Business Meetings:** Monday 5th September, 3rd October and 7th November 2022

Meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed Chairman:

Date